

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for determining a condition of degradation of bank notes, comprising: wherein data of at least two different properties of the bank notes are evaluated, wherein the at least two different properties of the bank notes relate to soiling, limpness, tears, adhesive tape, dog ears, holes and missing parts of the bank note, the method comprising

evaluating at least two different properties of a bank note, wherein the at least two different properties of the bank note relates to soiling, limpness, tears, adhesive tape, dog ears, holes and missing parts of the bank note;

assigning, according to the evaluation of the data of the at least two different properties, a certain value to each property characterizing the condition of degradation of the respective property;

linking the values of the at least two different properties of each bank note with each other by means of calculating a linear combination of the values of the different properties, and

deriving the condition of degradation of the bank note from a comparison of the linear combination of the different properties of the bank note with a given value; and

processing the bank note according to the condition of degradation.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein an average is determined for the values of each of the different ~~for a set of~~ bank notes to determine the condition of degradation of the set of bank notes for the particular different property.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein an average is determined for the values of each of the different properties linked by means of the linear combination for a set of bank notes to determine the overall condition of degradation of the set of bank notes.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for determining a condition of degradation of bank notes, comprising sensors for detecting data of at least two different properties of the bank notes, and a control device for determining the condition of degradation of the bank notes from the data of the at least two different properties of the bank notes, wherein the at least two different properties of the bank notes relate to soiling, limpness, tears, adhesive tape, dog-ears, holes or missing parts of the bank note,

wherein the control device is arranged to evaluate the data of the at least two different properties of each bank note and to assign, according to the evaluation, a certain value to each property characterizing the condition of degradation of the respective property;

the control device is arranged to link the values of the at least two different properties of each bank note with each other by ~~means of~~ calculating a linear combination of the values of the different properties, and

the control device is arranged to derive the condition of degradation of the bank note from a comparison of the linear combination of the different properties of the bank note with a given value.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the apparatus comprises a bank note processing machine.